Payment of gratuity and other dues

3397. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the workers in the Central Public Undertakings are paid the amount of gratuity and other dues soon after their retirement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the concrete steps taken or proposed to be taken to clear the dues of retired persons expeditiously in future?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d). The responsibility for payment of gratuity under the P.G. Act, 1972 vests in the concerned employer. The retiring workers are, therefore, required to be paid gratuity by the concerned management of the Central Public Sector Undertakings. There have been some cases in which gratuity and other dues have not been paid in time mainly because of financial difficulties of the Company. Such cases of delay in payment of gratuity as and when received are brought to the notice of the concerned Administrative Ministry for appropriate action. In the case of default pertaining to the Provident Fund dues necessary legal and penal action as provided under Sec. 7A, 8B, 14, 14B of the EPF & MP Act, 1952 is taken against the management for recovery of the provident fund dues and its payment to the beneficiaries. In genuine cases provident fund dues are payable to the retiring workers pending its recovery from the establishment.

[Translation]

Telephone Connections by Private Sector in Rural Areas

3398. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to launch a pilot project for providing telephone connections in rural areas of Karnataka by the private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the basis of selecting Karnataka State only for implementing the said pilot project on priority basis;

(d) whether the Government have also prescribed any time limit for the execution and assessment of this project; and

(e) if so, the details of the prescribed time limit and the expenditure likely to be incurred by the Government and private sector separately for the implementation of the project?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e). Does not arise in view of (a) above.

[English]

Child Labour

3399. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Child Labourers working in different fields in Sundargarh Districts, in Orissa;

(b) the number of child labourers belonging to tribal community; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for their rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). As per the 1981 census, the number of working children in the district of Sundergarh was 36118. Occupation wise and Community-wise information on working children is not maintained. Information regarding working children according to 1991 census has not so far been released by the Registrar General of Census Operations.

(c) Government of India has already sanctioned 76 Child Labour Projects (including 16 in the State of Orissa) in the child labour endemic districts of the country in the first phase. The district of Sundergarh has not been sanctioned any project so far.

[Translation]

Contract workers in NMDC

3400.SHRI MAHENDRA KARMA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unskilled workers engaged in the work of loading/unloading in Kirandul and Bacheli iron ore mines of NMDC in Bastar district of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the number of the above workers working as contract workers and the number of workers working under the management;

(c) whether these workers are provided with free basic facilities from the management; and